out taking them from the jar and *could not discover any eyes*. The specimens were about three lines in length.

So now we have two more facts to add to the history of the blind fishes (though whether they apply to Amblyopsis or Typhlichthys is not yet settled). First, that the young are born in October, and second, that they are without external eyes when born. — F. W. PUTNAM.

GEOLOGY.

GEOLOGY, ETC. IN CALIFORNIA. — At the regular meeting of the California Academy of Sciences Dec. 4th, Professor Whitney presented a variety of fossils found in limestones one hundred miles east of Elko. He then read a paper descriptive of his labors in the projection of a topographical map of the State, and exhibited several proofs or specimen copies to the members. They were most complete and elegantly engraved. He had commenced the publication of a volume on the geology of the State, and would probably compile three on the same topic. He also exhibited the first volume of the "Birds of California," containing seven hundred illustrations. This, the first volume, was devoted to the land birds of the state. The "Botany of California" was also in preparation. It is not to be illustrated. Salvador Morthange, consul-general of Belgium, was introduced to the Academy and read a highly interesting paper on White Island, in the bay of Plenty, New Zealand.

Professor Marsh, of Yale College, made a few remarks on his recent explorations. He had been out since June from New Haven, and had spent two months in collecting vertebrate fossils. He had discovered probably about fifty new species from the Miocene and Pliocene deposits, embracing a large variety of extinct reptiles. In Eastern Oregon he had made discoveries which would seem to clear up the geological puzzle in regard to the fresh water lakes; and also a large number of fossil horses, some but two feet in height, and some of the two-toed type had been collected.

Dr. Blake read a paper on the water of the "Devil's Inkstand," at the Geysers, which he found to contain a large quantity of ammoniacal salts. — R. E. C. S.

ORIGIN OF THE NEW ENGLAND GLACIER. — Professor Dana contributes an important article to the "American Journal of Science"

on the icy plateau which gave rise to the great New England glacier. He locates this *mer de glace* between Lake Temiscamang and Lake Mistissinny, on the Canadian watershed. During the glacial period the watershed was probably five thousand feet above its present level, while the White Mountains, the Green Mountain peaks, and the Adirondacks stood five hundred feet higher than they do at present; so that there was a sufficient inclination toward the sea-coast to allow of a movement in a southeast direction of the mass of ice.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

SCALPING.—THE "Friend of India" contains a letter from the Superintendent of Police in the north-eastern district of Bengal, giving an account of *scalping* among the wild tribes on the frontier of that district. In commenting on this letter the journal above named says, "The Naga tribes use the scalping-knife with a ferocity that is only equalled by the American Indians, and the scalps are carefully preserved as evidences of their prowess and vengeance over their enemies. On the death of a chief, all the scalps taken by him during his warlike career are burned with his remains."—*Jour. Anthr. Inst. N. Y.*

ARCHÆOLOGICAL CHRONOLOGY.—According to a notice of his "Essai de Chronologie Archéologique" in "Pall Mall Budget," Professor Forel draws a vivid picture of the time which has elapsed between the deposition of the Schussen glacial beds and the earlier lake habitations. A lapse of time of unknown duration had passed away, and at the commencement of the lacustrine epoch the following changes were accomplished. The fauna had changed. The reindeer and the mammoth had passed away, the *Bos primigenius* alone surviving as a contemporary of the wild boar, red deer and roebuck. The flora had changed. To the Alpine flora, with its scanty vegetation of mosses and lichens which were just able to grow on the ice-mud, had succeeded rich and brilliant forests composed of all our indigenous species of trees. The level of the lake had fallen 30 mètres, and had assumed its present aspect. And man seems to have changed from the poor reindeer hunter of the Salève to the intelligent and active fisher, agriculturist and manufacturer, to whom are due the relatively highly civilized lake habitations of ancient Switzerland. But the use of metal had not been introduced yet, and pottery alone indicates the comparatively high grade